Increase in strength of Judges

† 4123. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the growing number of pending cases in various courts from district level to the level of Supreme Court;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering to increase the number of Judges in the High Courts and Supreme Court for quick disposal of the cases; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) Yes, Sir. The pendency of cases in the judiciary is a cause of concern both for Government and Judiciary.

(b) and (c) The pendency in Supreme Court has come down from 1,04,936 in 1991 to 30,151 as on 1.1.2005 There is no proposal under consideration of the Government to increase the judge strength in Supreme Court.

The judge strength in High Courts is revised once in three years. The last such revision was done in the year 2003. Pursuant to this 94 posts of judges in High Courts have been created subject to the approval of the State Government.

Delimitation of Constituencies

† 4124. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV:

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the date on which the action for delimitation of Lok Sabha and Assembly constituency was discontinued;

(b) the reasons therefor;

(c) by when fresh action would be initiated for delimitation; and

(d) the details of the progress made so far in this regard, State-wise and by when the work would be completed?

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (d) The requisite information is being collected from the Delimitation Commission and will be laid on the Table of the House.

National Legal Literacy Mission

4125. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN:
SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister had recently launched a National Legal Literacy Mission;

(b) if so, the goals of the mission and the places from where the mission is likely to function;

(c) whether Government had allocated any funds for the mission;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the manner in which the mission would achieve its goals without any funds allocation by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K VENKATAPATHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The National Legal Literacy Mission endeavours to empower the economically and socially disadvantaged citizens by making them legally literate. The three-way approach of the Mission focuses on education in legal rights, education on fundamental duties and education on the availability and benefits of legal aid. The first phase of the said Mission has already been launched in 12 States, namely, Delhi, Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, North-Eastern States, West Bengal, Rajasthan and Orissa.

(c) to (e) National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) has not been allocated any separate funds for the mission.

NALSA proposes to bring the National Legal Literacy Mission in the ambit of plan expenditure and also create National Legal Literacy Fund. Meanwhile, the NALSA will fully utilize the grant allocated by the Government